

claims and Shaffer et al. (*i.e.*, that Shaffer et al. does not provide an identification of a group associated with a calling party to a called party. The Examiner suggested that the claims would be allowable over Shaffer et al. if this difference were recited in the claims. In response to this suggestion, Applicants have amended the independent claims to recite providing a modified calling party identification number to the called party (modified to an identification number of the group associated with the calling party), whereby the called party receives an identification of a group associated with the calling party instead of an identification of the calling party. In view of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Applicants have also made several other amendments to clarify the claims. For example, the term “said” was replaced by “the” for consistency, and the term “step” was removed to make clear that the claims do not recite step-plus-function elements and, therefore, should not be interpreted under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 6. Further, Applicants removed the elements added to the independent claims in the Amendment After Final and placed those elements in new dependent claims. Several other new dependent claims were added to recite additional features, and several other existing claims were amended for clarity purposes.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections against the claims and submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Amendment, the Examiner should contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4719.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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